

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ECON. GR

SUBJECT : PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN NORTHERN GREECE

REF : ATHENS 1427

1. LOCAL PRESS OF FEB 19 REPORTED ON MEETING PREVIOUS DAY OF PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER STRATOS AND MINISTER FOR NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS WHICH PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON GOG'S PLANS FOR PW PROJECTS IN NORTH MENTIONED REFTEL.

2. ON THESSALONIKI WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, REPORTS STATED THAT PRESENT PROJECT FOR PROVIDING CITY'S WATER FROM SPRINGS OF ARAVYSSOS (NEAR YANNITSA) HAD BEEN ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF SCHEME TO BRING WATER FROM ALIAKMON RIVER. LATTER WILL MESH WITH POWER AND IRRIGATION PROGRAM BASED ON PPC DAM AT POLYFYTON AT COST OF 1.1 BILLION DRACHMAS. DECISION GREETED SCEPTICALLY BY THESSALONIKI WATER SUPPLY ORGANIZATION AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, WHICH POINTED OUT LONGER TIME REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION OF ALIAKMON SCHEME, AT LEAST THREE YEARS, IN WHICH CITY WOULD BE SHORT OF WATER DURING SUMMER MONTHS. COUNCIL URGED THAT ARAVYSSOS PROJECT BE RETAINED AND EXPEDITED.

3. THESSALONIKI PORT PROJECT, IN PARTICULAR CONSTRUCTION NEW PIER 6, "MAY" BE SUSPENDED DUE ADVERSE POLLUTION EFFECTS AND
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OTHER PROBLEMS CONCERNING THERMAIKOS GULF. COMMENT: HOWEVER,

NEWLY-APPOINTED PORT DIRECTOR, PROF. DEM. VALLALAS, TOLD US
FEB 20 THAT PROJECT WAS PROBABLY ONLY DEFERRED FOR PRESENT.

4. THESSALONIKI SEWER SYSTEM WILL BE ALLOCATED TEN MILLION
DRACHMAS FOR "MINOR BUT IMPORTANT" CONSTRUCTION, PENDING
DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF MAJOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.
(SEE THESS 828).

5. DUE BUDGETARY PRESSURES, EGNATIA HIGHWAY PROJECT WILL BE
ABANDONED, STRATOS QUOTED AS SAYING, EXCEPT FOR TWO SECTIONS
ALREADY UNDER WAY , I.E., LINK FROM VERRIA TO NEW THESSALONIKI-
KATERINI MOTORWAY AND THAT FROM STRIMON TO KAVALLA.

6. HE ALSO REFERRED TO INTEREST OF UNNAMED FOREIGN BANKS IN
FINANCING OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDIES IN THERMAIKOS GULF AND IN
CONSTRUCTING PERIPHERAL ROAD ABOUT CITY OF THESSALONIKI.

7. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PAST INACCURACIES OF SOME PRESS
REPORTING IN THIS GENERAL AREA, CONGEN NOW CHECKING WITH
APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO VERIFY STATUS ABOVE PROJECTS.
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